

Message

From: Ross, Mary [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=98359CD1F66F46EC91D327E99A3C6909-ROSS, MARY]
Sent: 5/31/2016 1:15:00 PM
To: ORD-NCEA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9fd27be854b0475e8c7da44e626886aa-ORD-NCEA]
Subject: FW: ORD/OSA Weekly

FYI -

From: Blackburn, Elizabeth
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2016 2:06 PM
To: ORD-Exec-Council-Directors <Execcouncildirectors@usepa.onmicrosoft.com>; ORD-Mgmt-Council <ORDMgmtCouncil@epa.gov>; ORD-IOAA-Front Office Support <ORDIOAASUPPORT@epa.gov>; Benforado, Jay <Benforado.Jay@epa.gov>; Gibbons, Dayna <Gibbons.Dayna@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; Maloney, Kelsey <Maloney.Kelsey@epa.gov>; Matthews, Lisa <Matthews.Lisa@epa.gov>; Zambrana, Jose <Zambrana.Jose@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: ORD/OSA Weekly

Happy Memorial Day to all!

Please see Tom's note to the Administrator below.

Enjoy.

Liz

Liz Blackburn
Chief of Staff
EPA Office of Research and Development
202-564-2192
Cell Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Burke, Thomas" <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>
Date: May 28, 2016 at 12:48:13 PM EDT
To: "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov>, "Meiburg, Stan" <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov>, "Fritz, Matthew" <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Vaught, Laura" <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>, "Distefano, Nichole" <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>, "Beauvais, Joel" <Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov>, "McCabe, Janet" <McCabe.Janet@epa.gov>, "Jones, Jim" <Jones.Jim@epa.gov>, "Garbow, Avi" <Garbow.Avi@epa.gov>, "Giles-AA, Cynthia" <Giles-AA.Cynthia@epa.gov>, "Rupp, Mark" <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov>, "Ragland, Micah" <Ragland.Micah@epa.gov>, "Garvin, Shawn" <garvin.shawn@epa.gov>, "McLerran, Dennis" <mclerran.dennis@epa.gov>, "Curry, Ron" <Curry.Ron@epa.gov>, "Flynn, Mike" <Flynn.Mike@epa.gov>, "Spalding, Curt" <Spalding.Curt@epa.gov>
Cc: "Kavlock, Robert" <Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov>, "Kadeli, Lek" <Kadeli.Lek@epa.gov>, "Blackburn, Elizabeth" <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Robbins, Chris" <Robbins.Chris@epa.gov>, "Deener, Kathleen" <Deener.Kathleen@epa.gov>, "Corona, Elizabeth" <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Hubbard, Carolyn" <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>, "Kim, Hyon" <Kim.Hyon@epa.gov>
Subject: ORD/OSA Weekly

Administrator,

This week I will be on leave, travelling to Cape May, NJ. While there I intend to observe key environmental indicators including ocean temperature, sea level change and beach erosion, coastal water quality, drinking water taste and odor, inland lake eutrophication, migratory bird habitats, and bluefish and horseshoe crab populations.

Last week we had a senior leadership retreat to discuss our areas of focus for the next seven months. We agreed that chemical risk assessment, ORD leadership, and preparing the organization for a successful transition would be key focus areas for the next seven months. A number of other priorities were also emphasized including completion of the fracking report, water resource science and capacity, and continued work to emphasize the systems approach to public health and ecological health. We discussed a path forward for leadership assessments, including 360 assessments, and will have a conversation with lab, center, office, and national program directors about a more formalized approach to leadership development, mentoring, and succession planning.

Bob Kavlock visited our lab in Cincinnati last week where he spent time discussing the homeland security research portfolio and other topics of interest. He toured the Test & Evaluation Facility in Cincinnati where ORD researchers are able to scale up their laboratory research on water quality, monitoring, detection and security of our water supply.

Gold King Mine: ORD analysis to be shared at state and tribal technical review

Several Gold King Mine (GKM) state and tribal technical review sessions are scheduled for June 2, 7, 8 and 9. Sessions will include an overview and discussion of the GKM event and ORD project, GKM release volume and characteristics, plume travel and water quality, and sequestration of metals/byproducts and potential future effects.

Tire Crumb Update

The external peer review for the Tire Crumb Research Study Research Protocol has been completed and the contracted report was received. The team will review and revise the Protocol, as appropriate before the next steps submission for Institutional Review Board and Office of Management and Budget review.

Australia's Department of Defense Visits EPA

Representatives from Australia's Department of Defense will meet with staff from ORD, OITA, OLEM, OW, OCSP and Region 1 on June 1 to discuss how best to characterize, analyze and remediate the emerging contaminants PFOA and PFOS from soil and ground water at federal facilities. They will also visit several federal facilities around the country, including Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire, where firefighting and training activities contaminated public and private water supply wells with PFCs.

Region 1 and ORD to meet with public to discuss the Gerena School HIA

On June 1 ORD and R1 will meet with the public at the Gerena School in Springfield, Mass. to summarize findings from a Health Impact

Assessment (HIA) and Building Impact Assessment (BIA) developed for the school. The HIA was developed to address asthma concerns and to present recommendations for renovations to maximize potential health benefits while avoiding or mitigating potential harmful impacts. EPA conducted the BIA after the school received a high percentage of asthma reports from students and staff. It identified environmental issues as potential causes, including water leakage and flooding that have caused mold growth and structural damage. After implementing suggested remedies, the school has experienced a reduction in the number of asthma reports.

ORD Scientist To Present at Columbia River Cold Water Refugia Workshop

ORD will present at the Columbia River Cold Water Refugia (CWR) Workshop on June 1 in Portland, OR. ORD and Region 10 will summarize the information EPA has assembled concerning salmon and steelhead use of cold water refugia in the Columbia River. The workshop is an opportunity to work with stakeholders (states, tribes, other agencies, and universities) to advance the understanding of the role that the CWR plays to support salmon and steelhead populations along the river.

Annual Employee Conversation with the Scientific Integrity Official

On June 2, Francesca Grifo will hold an in-person presentation and webinar focused on scientific integrity, open to all EPA employees. Dr. Grifo plans to talk about the Scientific Integrity Policy, share current initiatives, and have an open dialogue with employees.

ORD Facility To Use Goats for Landscaping and Improving Pollinator Habitat

ORD's Atlantic Ecology Division will host goats along for 6 to 10 days to clear the overgrown landscaping, particularly all invasive and nuisance species, along the perimeter of the facility. They have been actively converting grass into native wildflower meadows and clearing wooded areas containing invasive bittersweet and black locust for the past 10 years.

Webinars on Particulate Matter Integrated Science Assessment

On May 23, EPA's draft Integrated Review Plan for Particulate Matter (PM) was reviewed during a Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) meeting. During June, we will hold public webinars to solicit peer input on preliminary written materials for the first draft PM ISA scheduled for public release and subsequent review by CASAC in 2017.

Last Week

GAO Workshop on Sustainable Chemistry Technologies

ORD was invited to participate in the U.S. Government Accountability Office expert meeting on Sustainable Chemistry Technologies at the National Research Council Keck Center in Washington, D.C., on May 24–25. The GAO convened this group to help their team of scientists and policy experts to evaluate and assess key facets of this field on behalf of Congress (and at the request of Senator Coons). This evaluation will continue through additional discussions with other federal agencies,

academia, and industry experts and a report will be prepared for Congress.

Science Outside the Lab

ORD hosted a team of 15 students and 3 faculty from Arizona State University's 'Science Outside the Lab,' program led by Professor Jamey Wetmore. The program brought graduate student scientists and engineers to DC for one week to show them how science works beyond the doors of their lab. Through a series of discussions with policy makers, the program educates the students about the important role that science plays in the United States as well as ways that they can more directly contribute to increasing the positive impact of the work that they do.

Ohio EPA Director to visit EPA Experimental Streams Facility (ESF) in Cincinnati

On May 26, Craig Butler, Director of Ohio EPA, toured ESF and learned about the East Fork Watershed Study and East Fork Watershed Cooperative (EFWCoop). EFWCoop represents a diverse group of local and federal water resource professionals, scientists, engineers, and other stakeholders working cooperatively to understand how to better manage water quality in the region. Butler also visited the Cornwell farm agBMP demonstration site and viewed the monitoring system for assessing harmful algae impacts on Lake Harsha set up at the drinking water intake.

ProUCL Update Now Available

ORD's Site Characterization and Monitoring Technical Support Center developed an updated version ProUCL software to compute rigorous statistics for contaminated sites to help decision makers choose the best remediation options. ProUCL is downloaded, on average, 6,000 times per year by EPA staff, states, contractors, and other stakeholders around the world.

Awards

Boy Scout Award

ORD's Dan Coberly will receive the Silver Buffalo Award at the National Annual Meeting of the Boy Scouts of America in San Diego, CA, on May 27; it will be presented by Robert Gates, former Secretary of Defense and current BSA President. Created in 1925, the Silver Buffalo Award is the BSA's highest national-level distinguished service commendation; it is presented for noteworthy and extraordinary service to youth on a national basis, either as part of or independent of the Scouting program.

EPA-RTP STEM Outreach named Industry Partner of the Year by US2020

EPA-RTP's STEM Outreach was named US2020 RTP's STEM Industry Partner of the Year during their First Annual STEMmy Awards on May 25. Industry Partner of the Year is awarded to an organization that's made the greatest impact on RTP's STEM community during the 2015-16 school year, as nominated by area schools and groups. EPA-RTP's STEM Outreach was acknowledged for increasing access to STEM through focused volunteerism and on-campus/on-site visits. EPA-RTP STEM Outreach Director, Kelly Witter accepted the award.

Publications

Grantee Publication

STAR grantee Stephen Randtke (University of Kansas) and colleagues recently published their research looking at how free chlorine and monochloramine (MCA) react with Biphenol A (BPA), bisphenol A diglycidyl ether (BADGE) and bisphenol F (BPF) that leaches from epoxies and plastics into drinking water. Previous studies cite correlations between elevated levels of BPA and negative impacts on reproduction, neurobehavioral development, and metabolic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, thyroid and liver function. Results of the study show free chlorine will degrade bisphenols and create chlorinated degradation products with varying toxicity.